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Articles in Today's Clips

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Man charged in 3-year-old's death

BY ART BUKOWSKI

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August 05, 2008 12:00 am

KALKASKA -- Authorities charged a Kalkaska man with murder after his girlfriend's toddler died.

Cody Lawrence Cross, 3, died Sunday morning at a Grand Rapids hospital. Police believe Sheldon James McDonald, 25, beat Cody in a downtown Kalkaska apartment where McDonald lived with the child's mother, Pamela Sue Buning.

McDonald was arraigned Monday in Kalkaska District Court on an open count of murder, felony murder and first-degree child abuse. Bond was set at \$2 million, and a preliminary examination is scheduled for Aug. 13.

Cody was unconscious and appeared to have a head injury when police and medical personnel arrived at the Cedar Street apartment at about 9:30 p.m. Friday, Kalkaska County Prosecutor Brian Donnelly said.

Buning told police the child fell down a set of stairs, Donnelly said. But medical personnel allegedly noticed injuries that suggested a pattern of abuse.

"He literally had bruises from head to toe, on his head, down his back and on his front," Donnelly said. "He was bruised from being beaten all over his body."

The exact cause of death hasn't been determined, but investigators are confident Cody died as a result of the alleged beating, Donnelly said.

Police arrested McDonald early Saturday. The exact reason for the alleged beating isn't clear, but investigators believe Cody may have bothered McDonald.

"It appears to be misguided efforts at discipline," Donnelly said.

McDonald, Buning and Cody lived in one of two apartments above Kalkaska Floral & Gifts. They lived there about a month, shop owner Lauri Forbes said.

Forbes could hear the occupants from time to time as she worked in her business, she said, but she never noticed any disturbances.

"I didn't hear any arguing or fighting," she said.

McDonald is a registered sex offender, records show. He grew belligerent during his arraignment and had to be subdued by several officers, Donnelly said.

An investigation is ongoing, and Buning could face charges, Donnelly said.

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Photos



Sheldon James McDonald

22-YEAR SEARCH FOR CINDY ENDS

In girl's wooded grave, a family finds closure

BY AMBER HUNT • FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER • August 5, 2008

To anyone else, it is merely a hole -- a 4-foot-deep opening in the middle of the forest next to a serene riverbank.

But to Ed Zarzycki, it's the answer he has been seeking for 22 years.

This is where his daughter Cindy had lain for two decades, her 13-year-old body beneath the earth, the spot unmarked and undisturbed since she disappeared in 1986.

Last month, Cindy's remains were unearthed after her killer led investigators to the plot of land off 23 Mile Road in Macomb Township. Arthur Ream, 59, is set to be sentenced Thursday to life without parole. Even without a body, a jury convicted him in June of first-degree murder.

A week after investigators discovered Cindy's bones, her father -- who for years had prayed for her return, hoping she'd run away or gotten amnesia -- visited the spot with Eastpointe Detective Derek McLaughlin, the man whose persistence solved the case.

"Look," Zarzycki quietly said to his wife, Linda, pointing at some overgrown brush. "Wild raspberries."

The two clasped hands, looked at the Clinton River branch flowing gently behind them. Then they embraced.

"I had to come here," Zarzycki said. "I knew I needed to see it."

McLaughlin knelt over the burial site, describing how Cindy's body lay for all those years.

"It's a peaceful place," he said.

Cold case consumes McLaughlin

McLaughlin, 48, known as Mac, first learned Cindy's name in 1996 when a supervisor slapped the cold case file on his desk and told him to solve it.

The Zarzyckis' story was gut-wrenching: The last time Ed Zarzycki saw his blond-haired, softball-loving daughter, she was leaving their East Detroit house on a Sunday morning. The city has since been renamed Eastpointe.

Cindy told her father she was meeting friends at the Dairy Queen and they were going to walk to church -- but that, Zarzycki now knows, was a lie. She actually wanted to sneak out and see her boyfriend, Scott.

Ream is Scott's father. During the trial, Assistant Prosecutor Steve Kaplan painted a haunting picture: Ream lured Cindy to the Dairy Queen by saying he was throwing his son a birthday party. After he picked her up, Kaplan said, Ream raped her, killed her and hid her body.

The case languished for years.

Detective turns to psychics

During the next decade, Eastpointe police occasionally reexamined the case.

When it got to McLaughlin, he zeroed in on Ream, who had piqued detectives' suspicions early on but was never treated as a suspect because without a body, Cindy was treated as a runaway, not a murder victim.

Ream had since been imprisoned for sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl.

Though police had no real evidence, they did find a telltale keepsake in Ream's belongings: a missing-persons flyer from the mid-'90s with Cindy's picture. And they caught Ream lying, saying he'd never met Cindy when the teen had told her mother about how much she felt she could trust her boyfriend's father.

The modus operandi fit, McLaughlin said: Ream has an admitted fetish for teenage girls, and, according to those who knew her, Cindy was the type to fight back -- a struggle that McLaughlin said likely led to her death.

But McLaughlin said he felt he wasn't yet prepared to deal with someone as manipulative as Ream. He took a course to learn interrogation techniques. There, he met Jennifer Leibow, an investigator and forensic interviewer with the training company.

"After talking to Mac, his dedication and his motivation on this case was absolutely contagious," said Leibow, 26. "Everybody felt it."

Normally, investigators refer to cases by their numbers. The Zarzycki case is 86-4651 Y/B -- but no one calls it that, Leibow said. They call it "Cindy's case."

She and McLaughlin talked almost daily for three years, she said, as McLaughlin chased countless leads. He even turned to psychics, he said. One told him last spring that Cindy

had died a violent death, was buried next to a river and was being sought by a peacekeeper who already knew who the killer was.

"He told me, 'You're going to be talking to him real soon,' " McLaughlin said. "That was the end of April. On May 4, we interviewed Ream. It was crazy, bone-chilling stuff."

McLaughlin said when investigators interviewed Ream, his behavior was telling.

"He didn't ask us why we were there," McLaughlin said. "He just said, 'I knew this day would come.' "

Offer to find body is rescinded

Everyone -- the Zarzyckis, Leibow, McLaughlin, even prosecutors -- wanted to find Cindy's body more than they wanted a first-degree murder conviction.

They tried to persuade Ream. Investigators took him to the grave of his son, Scott -- Cindy's budding boyfriend, who was killed in 1994 by a drunken driver -- and let him lay flowers.

"I said, 'Art, you have your son to bury. Why don't you give the Zarzyckis the same peace and the same closure?' " Leibow said. "He just shook his head and looked at me and said, 'That was a low blow.' "

Though Ream's lawyer, Tim Kohler, questioned during the trial whether Cindy was even dead, Ream made an eleventh-hour offer to lead investigators to the girl's body.

McLaughlin and the Zarzyckis were game, but the jury would never hear about it. Ream decided to gamble on the jury and rescinded the offer.

Inmate reveals burial site

After the conviction, the Zarzyckis resolved they might not ever find Cindy's body.

"We decided if God wants us to have her, He'll bring her to us," Linda Zarzycki said. "If He's protecting us because maybe the truth is too hard to hear, we're OK with that."

But on July 8, Ream drew McLaughlin a map of the Macomb Township land his friends owned. When the map proved too difficult to follow the next day, Ream was driven from a county detention facility to the land off 23 Mile Road.

With his hands and feet shackled, he crossed a rickety bridge over the Clinton River and pointed to an area near the riverbank.

Some of Cindy's family members came to the scene and waited; Ed and Linda Zarzycki stayed at their home about an hour away in St. Clair County's Lexington to await McLaughlin's phone call.

After seven hours, investigators had found nothing. That's when Al Shier, whose property abuts the area, offered to use his front-end loader to help dig.

McLaughlin spotted a purse. Another layer of dirt came off, and he saw a human leg bone.

Next came shoes. They belonged to Cindy.

But the most identifiable belongings were in Cindy's purse: homemade audiotapes that her family knew she lugged with her no matter where she went. While too old to play, her father believes they contained music by her favorite bands: Mötley Crüe, RATT or Jefferson Starship.

The mood in the woods was both excited and somber, McLaughlin said. He didn't see bones; he saw a 13-year-old girl who he'd come to know.

For McLaughlin, bringing the Zarzyckis to the spot by the riverbank was important in that he'd made good on his promise: He found Cindy for them.

When he took Ed and Linda Zarzycki to the burial site last month, they noticed a pair of twigs that someone had fashioned into a makeshift cross.

"Well, look at that," Linda Zarzycki said as she pulled her husband to her. Birds chirped in the trees overhead.

The couple stood silently for another minute, looking into the hole that to anyone else would simply be just that: a hole.

Then they walked out of the forest holding hands.

Contact **AMBER HUNT** at 586-826-7267 or alhunt@freepress.com.

Police: Man shot girlfriend

Tuesday, August 05, 2008

By Danielle Quisenberry
dquisenberry@citpat.com -- 768-4929

Shakia Kelley had filed a personal protection order against Marshan Worthey and was trying to distance herself from the father of her children.

“She was trying to get away from him. He just wouldn't leave her alone,” said Kelley's grandmother, Cynthia Kelley.

Police believe Worthey, 24, shot and killed Shakia Kelley, 22, of Jackson about 5 a.m. Sunday on Bloomfield Boulevard near Woodbridge Street, less than a quarter mile from her home, and dragged her down the road.

Three Jackson officers, called to a report of shots fired on Bloomfield, shot and killed Worthey after they approached him on Woodbridge Street at W. Euclid Avenue and he pointed a gun at them, Jackson Deputy Chief John Holda said.

It was not clear what led to the first shooting.

Family members of Shakia Kelley and Worthey said the two had a tumultuous relationship.

Together, they had two children: Tyshan Kelley, 7, and Kiarra Kelley, 3, according to court records.

“She said he just loved her too much,” said Shakia Kelley's great-grandmother, Jeannette Johnson. “He didn't want to share her with anyone.”

Worthey, who was on probation for a drug conviction and resisting, assaulting or opposing police, was in jail last month for violating the protection order Shakia Kelley filed against him.

Circuit Judge Susan Beebe, who granted the order June 4, sentenced him on July 17 to 30 days with credit for 28 days, according to court records.

On Sunday, officers received information a man was dragging a body in the 200 block of W. Euclid Avenue, according to a city police press release.

When they arrived, Shakia Kelley was lying in the grass.

Holda said it is believed she no longer was alive when police arrived.

She and Worthey were pronounced dead at the scene.

Worthey pointed a handgun at acting Sgt. Timothy Hibbard and officers Jason Ganzhorn and Wesley Stanton, and ignored their verbal commands, Holda said.

“They fired to stop the threat,” he said.

Initially, Jackson County Undersheriff Tom Finco said the officers were returning fire, but Holda said Monday investigators are not sure if Worthey shot at police.

Pending ballistics evidence and autopsy results are needed to clarify what occurred, Holda said.

The Sheriff's Office is investigating and will submit its findings to the Prosecutor's Office for review, Holda said.

"We believe the officers acted appropriately," the deputy chief said.

A city sergeant is conducting an administrative investigation to make sure the officers, who each have more than six years with the department, followed department "use of force" policy and procedure. All three officers, none of whom were injured, are on paid administrative leave until the investigations are complete, Holda said Monday.

Shakia Kelley alleged in her protection order petition that Worthey threatened to kill her.

"Marshan is abusive. He has been assaulting, attacking and beating me in front of the children," she wrote on June 2. "For the past month or so I have been asking Marshan to please leave the kids and I alone. Each time I ask him to do so, he threatens to kill me and beat my ass."

Shakia Kelley wrote Worthey had shown up at her home June 1, become violent, and banged her head against the shower.

Despite the circumstances, Cynthia Kelley did not speak badly of Worthey.

"I don't want to put him down. He's gone, too," she said. "It's a tragic situation."

Cynthia Kelley was sitting on the front porch of her home Monday with Johnson and Shakia Kelley's aunt, Christine Brown.

On a table sat a picture of Shakia Kelley and her mother, Angela Kelley, who died last year.

Shakia Kelley had been having a tough time with her mother's death and her problems with Worthey, Cynthia Kelley said.

To worsen matters, the two lost a child last winter, her family said.

"She was 22. That was too much for her," her grandmother said.

Shakia Kelley graduated from Jackson High School, where she played varsity basketball, and was taking classes at Jackson Community College.

She met Worthey while the two were in high school, Cynthia Kelley said.

Their mothers were friends, she said.

Worthey, who has some other children, was not working, his grandmother, Sadie Worthey said. ``He's just a young man," she said. ``Like all young men his age."

Shakia Kelley worked at Foote Hospital as a nursing assistant and wanted to become a registered nurse, Cynthia Kelley said.

Brown called her soft-spoken, sweet and quiet, saying she was a good mom who was close with her large family.

``That is the part that is so difficult. She was so undeserving," Brown said.

``You hear stuff like that, you think of people who live on the street, bad people. She was just the opposite of that."

Abraham arraigned on felony drug-trafficking charges

BY L.L. BRASIER • FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER • AUGUST 5, 2008

Michigan's youngest convicted killer was formally charged with felony drug trafficking in Oakland County Circuit Court on Monday.

Nathaniel Abraham, dressed in a pressed white shirt and dark slacks, looked pensive as Oakland County Circuit Judge Daniel O'Brien asked him his name.

His attorney, Byron Pitts, waived the formal reading of the charges -- possession with intent to deliver ecstasy -- and the two left without speaking to reporters.

Abraham, 22, faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted. A pretrial hearing is set for Sept. 15. A trial is expected later this year. Abraham also is to appear in 52-3 District Court on Wednesday in Rochester Hills following his May 28 arrest for driving with a suspended license and without a seat belt.

He is free on \$10,000 bond, but is on a tether and restricted to his mother's home in Pontiac. Abraham was just 11 in 1997 when he shot and killed Ronnie Greene Jr. in Pontiac.

Who's watching child-care system?

Posted by [Jackson Citizen Patriot](#) August 05, 2008 08:05AM

The following is a [Jackson Citizen Patriot](#) editorial for August 5:

Whether you are a parent or a taxpayer, you ought to be concerned with the troubling news coming from the Michigan Department of Human Services. Two state audits within two weeks show that the agency:

- Made roughly \$231 million in fraudulent payments to child-care providers for low-income families in three years.
- Improperly licensed 1,900 child-care providers — some of whom were in prison, on parole or on the state's sex-offender registry.

These findings have sounded alarms. Lawmakers are poised to hold hearings next week, and they may pass a package of nine bills that was last up for discussion in June. Child-welfare advocates say Michigan needs to spend less on prisons and more to help DHS enforce regulations.

While there is room for some of that, the real message is that lawmakers need to make sure this agency is doing its job, while parents need to do their homework before placing their young ones in any child-care setting.

The problems highlighted in both reports stem from a profoundly lax system in the human-services department. State officials did not check to see if potential child-care providers were on lists of sex offenders or parolees. Child-care providers who received aid through a program for low-income working parents simply called an automated system to receive their checks, with no verification. Officials also did not see if parents who were in this program actually were working.

Were state regulators overworked? Perhaps, but auditors found these irregularities fairly easily. It was this outside look that prompted DHS to purge its lists of child-care providers of folks who clearly should not care for children.

The leaders of this agency say improvements already have been under way. They now collect fingerprints for licensed child-care providers, part of a

more thorough background check. A new automated system is slated to be in place by next year to verify providers' information before they receive taxpayers' checks.

Officials say the system will improve. Holding them to their word should be the top priority for lawmakers.

And if parents think the responsibility for adequate child care stops there, they are mistaken. Ensuring high-quality day care should be no less of a priority than making sure one's child goes to the best school.

That should mean more than relying on word of mouth or even a friend's trusted recommendation to choose someone to watch your child. It is not too much to ask child-care providers to sit down for an interview, to allow parents in for visits and provide references. The Child Care Network of Ann Arbor/Jackson provides suggestions on what parents should ask about on its Web site, www.childcarenetwork.org, or call 817-0820.

The state has to do better in watching over the people who care for our youngest children. Parents should take these failings as a wake-up call, too.

Issue

Audits find major problems in the oversight of child-care providers.

Our Say

Lawmakers should hold officials responsible and make sure they are regulating child-care providers. No less important, parents must be aware and understand their role.

Albion man missing after buying bus ticket for La.

Tuesday, August 05, 2008

Staff report

A 79-year-old man from Albion was reported missing after he purchased a bus ticket to Shreveport, La., from a Battle Creek bus station.

Spencer Lee Gillard, who lives with his daughter and son-in-law, was last seen about 12:30 p.m. Saturday, after a person from the community offered him a ride and dropped him off at the bus station, said Lt. Scott Kipp of the Albion Department of Public Safety.

He was last seen wearing a gray polo shirt with a black-and-white pattern and blue shorts. He also may be wearing a baseball cap with "Louisiana" on it.

There was no confirmation Monday as to whether Gillard boarded the bus or got off at a different stop, Kipp said.

There were three stops between Battle Creek and Shreveport: Chicago; Memphis, Tenn.; and Texarkana, Ark.

Family members waiting for him in Shreveport said he was not on the bus when it arrived at 3 p.m. Sunday.

Gillard is in the early stages of Alzheimer's, Kipp said. Foul play is not suspected.

Kipp said Gillard had recently traveled to Shreveport and had family there.



Tuesday, August 5, 2008

Rob Parker

Program gets youths on course



BLOOMFIELD TWP. -- Many golf fans will come to the 90th PGA Championship this week at Oakland Hills, but few will enjoy the thrill of it more than a selected 60 or so young people Wednesday.

That's when Detroit's Midnight Golf participants will be guests of the Charter One Foundation and the PGA Foundation as part of a mentor-for-a-day program.

Some of the kids from past sessions of the seven-year old, inner-city program will walk around Oakland Hills Country Club, take in the practice rounds and perhaps buy a souvenir.

"This will be their chance to see what a real golf course is about," Renee Fluker, founder and director of Midnight Golf, said Monday afternoon. "They have never been to a country club like this. Never."

That's why Wednesday will be so special. Johnathan McElrath of the 2007-08 class was excited when he found out about the trip on Sunday.

"I had my clothes laid out for the big day on Monday," said McElrath, who will be a freshman at Western Michigan. "I can't wait. I want to check out the environment."

Making a difference

Fluker's vision of this groundbreaking program was more than just golf. The program is also about college preparation, financial literacy and community activism. To date, it has enhanced the lives of more than 470 young people.

Midnight Golf receives financial support from the PGA of America, five-time PGA champion Jack Nicklaus, RBS/Charter One Foundation, the USGA, Pepsi Bottling Co., State Farm Insurance, and more than 64 colleges and universities.

"This is really the PGA's opportunity to see Detroit with something positive," program director David Gamlin said.

There's a myth out there that African-American kids don't like golf. Not true, Gamlin said.

"It's ridiculous," he said. "They love it."

Foot in the door

The program is not built on some pie-in-the-sky notion of developing the next Tiger Woods. It would be nice if golf had other talented African-Americans competing.

This, however, is about learning golf so it can become a professional asset.

"The stuff we teach helps make these kids be more well-rounded, more professional, a more marketable individual," Gamlin said.

The program started in 2001 with 12 young people. To date, 93 have completed the 30-week program, which meets twice a week. Fluker said more than 250 kids that have taken part in the program are now spread out among 16 colleges.

"That's the main thing -- getting these young people in school," Fluker said.

On Wednesday, however, school will take a momentary backseat to golf at its highest level. It will be a day to relax, soak in the atmosphere and record a memory that will, no doubt, last forever.

You can reach Rob Parker at rob.parker@detnews.com.

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August 5, 2008

Albion Goodwill shuts, blames crime

Larry O'Connor
For the Enquirer

ALBION — In the end, a lack of good will caused the demise of a resale shop by the same name last week, a store official said.

The Goodwill Industries outlet at 1495 N Eaton St. was losing money, said Interim CEO Brian Wensauer, who cited crime as the main culprit. He said similar issues drove out the Pamida store in the same shopping area earlier this year.

"It's not a very safe area," Wensauer said. "Donations are down in that area. People are afraid to come out and even shop there."

Goodwill Industries moved into the plaza from downtown Albion a few years ago. Wensauer, who also is first vice-chair of Goodwill Industries of Central Michigan's Heartland, specifically cited an armed robbery and "quick-change artists" contributing to the resale shop's demise.

Wensauer raised those issues with City Manager Michael Herman and Public Safety Director Eric Miller, whom he said he spoke with last week prior to the resale store's closing July 25. The city's public safety department offers to work with stores to prevent shoplifting and internal theft, Herman said.

"Unfortunately a lot of them don't want to put store security in or do anything else," the city manager said. "They just want us to magically stop people from stealing. So it's got to be cooperative.

"I don't know what Goodwill did or didn't do."

Crime is no more an issue in that shopping district than in any other area, said Herman, who added that Pamida officials told city officials it closed the store at 1450 N. Eaton St. due to lack of sales.

"We've got some of the same problems (with theft and shoplifting)," said Jennifer Noneman, a sales associate at Tractor Supply Co., 1448 N. Eaton St., which is in the same shopping area.

It doesn't appear Goodwill will reopen in another location any time soon, Wensauer said. The city manager offered the city's support to help the nonprofit entity find another spot.

"It's a service, whether it's people shopping or donating items, that they provide to the community," Herman said.

Goodwill counts on donations of clothes and other household items, which are sold at retail outlets.

The organization remains in dire need of donated items. Every pound of textiles results in \$1. Proceeds underwrite the nonprofit's main thrust of helping train unskilled workers, including those with disabilities.

Items had to be brought into the Albion outlet from other Goodwill stores due to a lack of donations, Wensauer said. Though unable to cite figures, he said the North Eaton Street store brought in only half of what other Goodwill stores take in.

The interim CEO was uncertain if displaced workers will be transferred to other jobs. The store had three full-time employees, he said.

"It's sad," Wensauer said. "It's not always fun to close a store, but when it is economically impacting the rest of organization, you have to make a decision.

"You take Michigan's economy and add what's going on in Albion, you've got double the trouble," he said. "They are struggling all over in Albion. There is just not employment there."

Larry O'Connor is a freelance writer.

Help is Here Express, a bus part of Partnership for Prescription Assistance, stops in Kalamazoo

Posted by [jbarr](#) August 05, 2008 11:00AM

KALAMAZOO -- Kevin Smith climbed aboard the big orange bus, hoping for help that just might save his life. Nathaniel Hamilton did the same, seeking assistance in getting medicine he cannot afford.

Smith, 55, and Hamilton, 39, were among about 40 uninsured or under-insured visitors Monday to the Help is Here Express bus. The vehicle for the Partnership for Prescription Assistance program stopped for two hours in front of the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission as part of a five-day, 10-city Michigan tour.

Smith received information Monday on how to obtain Plavix, a medication he says he needs after suffering two heart attacks.

"This is a wonderful program," said Smith, a Kalamazoo resident who is unemployed and uninsured. "I get Plavix samples from hospitals or doctors when they have them, but that might just be eight or 10 pills. Doctors say I need it every day, and there's no way I can afford it without insurance.

"Because of what I've learned here today, I have somewhere to turn."

Hamilton is staying at the Gospel Mission, and he said medical insurance is beyond his means at the moment. But he found out Monday that he still has a way to get prescriptions through Partnership for Prescription Assistance.

"I'm just trying to learn what I can learn," he said. "This is a rough point in my life. I'm happy to find out there is help available."

The Help is Here Express has been delivering help in mass quantities since it was founded in 2005. The cruiser bus has visited 2,000 cities in that time, according to PPA spokesman Greg Lopes, and it has reached more than 5 million of the more than 47 million uninsured or underinsured Americans.

"Our mission not only is to bring direct help to the people who come and need it," Lopes said, "but we also seek to heighten awareness of the health-insurance problem in this country."

Many of those seeking help with prescriptions through the PPA will get them free or nearly free, thanks to the efforts of several organizations. Among the groups collaborating are the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association, the Lupus Foundation of America, the NAACP, the National Alliance for Hispanic Health and the National Medical Association.

"It isn't just the unemployed or the uninsured who need the help these days," Lopes said. "With the economy the way it is, there are plenty of working people who are struggling financially and are having serious trouble paying for medicine.

"They don't have to feel hopeless. There is help, and it is real."

Partnering for prescriptions

- The Partnership for Prescription Assistance brings together America's pharmaceutical companies, doctors, other health-care providers, patient advocacy organizations and community groups to help qualifying patients who lack prescription coverage get the medicines they need through the public or private program that's right for them.

- For more information, call (888) 477-2669 or visit www.pparx.org.

Contact Jeff Barr at jbarr@kalamazoogazette.com or 388-8581.